

TOW LAW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Grove Lodge,
TOW LAW,
Co. Durham.

Dr. A. Charlton,
M.B., B.S., M.R. San. I.
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1952

Area of Urban District - 477 acres.
Population - Registrar General's Mid-year Estimate - 3,166
Number of Inhabited Houses 31/12/53 - 1,016
Rateable Value as at 31/3/52 - £10,065
Product of 1d Rate 1952/53 - £36. 8. 5.32d

OFFICIALS

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. A. Charlton, Grove Lodge, Tow Law.
Sanitary Inspector - Mr. H.E. Raine, M.C., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Council Offices, Tow Law, Co. Durham.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The area continues to present a high Birth Rate in relation to the rest of the Country.

Employment, for the time being, is satisfactory, but doubt exists as to the ultimate prospects of the district having regard to the gradual exhaustion of the residual coal deposits in and about the area combined with a lack of alternative industry. There is a tendency to migration, especially amongst the younger members of the community and, should the housing situation elsewhere improve, I am of the opinion that this tendency would be accentuated.

In common with the rest of South West Durham, to say nothing of the North West Area of the County, the time is ripe for the invitation of schemes for alternative employment to meet a gradual developing state of recession in industry and, as far as Tow Law is concerned, efforts should be made to improve the Housing situation, to develop the amenities of the area and, in general, to attempt to make the Town more attractive from a residential point of view.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	38	39
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1
					39	40

Total - 79

Live Births per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population.. 24.95
Area Comparability Factor 1.05
Adjusted Live Birth Rate 26.19
Live Births per 1,000 England & Wales 15.3

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	1	1	
Illegitimate	-	-	
	1	1	Total - 2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	...	0.63	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	...	0.35	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	...	24.6	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births England & Wales	...	22.6	

DEBATES

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Deaths in Infants under 1 year of age:					
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-
				1	2
Total				-	3
 <u>Infantile Mortality Rate:</u>					
Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	37.9	
Rate per 1,000 Live Births					
England & Wales	...	...	...	27.6	

Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 yrs of age
per 1,000 live births Nil

Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 yrs of age
per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales ... 1.1

Neonatal Deaths

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-
				1	2
			Total	- 3	

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births ... 37.9

<u>Deaths:</u>							<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	15	35
Death Rate per 1,000 Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	...	11.05			
Area Comparability Factor			...	...		1.05			
Adjusted Death Rate	...		...	...		11.6			
Death Rate per 1,000 Population England and Wales	...		...	...		11.3			

Deaths from subjoined causes:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Vascular lesions of Nervous system	2	5
Coronary disease - Angina	3	3
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	1
Bronchitis	3	1
Other Heart Diseases	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach)	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	-
Accidents	1	-
Suicide	1	-
	20	15

Total - 35

Deaths from:

Diphtheria	}	NIL
Whooping Cough		
Measles		
Pregnancy		
Childbirth		
Abortion		

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1952

	<u>NO.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	4
Pneumonia	3	-
Measles	48	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	1
Erysipelas	2	-
Whooping Cough	2	-

Tuberculosis Primary Notification
of New Cases

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Respiratory	-	1

Houses Disinfected --- Nil

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are catered for by the Public Health Laboratory, Ponteland Road, Newcastle on Tyne.

Pathological specimens can be reported upon by the Bishop Auckland General Hospital.

HOSPITALS ETC.

The area is well served by:

- The General Hospital, Bishop Auckland (General)
- The County Hospital, Durham
- Dryburn Hospital, Durham (General)
- The General Hospital, Chester-le-Street
- Shotley Bridge Hospital.
- The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle on Tyne.
- The General Hospital, Newcastle on Tyne.
- The Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle on Tyne.
- Sunderland Eye Infirmary, Sunderland.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Part 3 Services Administered by Durham County Council.

Section 21 - Health Centres No action.

Section 22 - Care of Mothers and Young Children

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre operates in the Mechanics Institute, Tow Law, at fortnightly intervals.

Section 23 - Midwifery

There is a resident Certified Nurse who undertakes the duties of Midwifery and Maternity Nursing.

Section 24 - Health Visiting

Regular visits are made by the Health Visitor.

Section 25 - Home Nursing

Miss T. Harlo of 54, High Street, Tow Law, occupies the position of District Nurse.

Section 26 - Vaccination and Immunisation

The Vaccination state of the community cannot be said to be satisfactory; some prejudice appears to exist as compared with Immunisation against Diphtheria.

In both instances, the lack of prevalence of disease would appear to affect the number of parents taking advantage of the scheme.

Section 27 - Ambulances

This service is very efficient and well patronised. The service is controlled from Bishop Auckland (Tel: Bp. Auckland 810).

Owing to the isolated nature of area, there may be a tendency to use the service on occasions when alternative transport would suffice.

Section 28 - Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care

Arrangements are made by the County Council to implement this section, but little need exists in your area.

Section 29 - Domestic Help

Arrangements are in force and are well patronised, serving an urgent need in many instances.

TREATMENT CENTRES

A Venereal Diseases Clinic at Durham County Hospital and a Chest Clinic at Bishop Auckland, provide adequate facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal diseases and Tuberculosis.

There is, as yet, no provision in the Urban Area for a Day Nursery or Nursery School.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention

No action

WATER SUPPLY

Provided by Durham County Water Board. All premises have a piped supply.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938

Inspection and Supervision of Food Shops

All premises where food is prepared, stored and sold, were visited and, where necessary, action was, and is, taken to prevent unwrapped Bread, Cakes, etc., being contaminated by its removal from Shop counters, also to improve the general standard of cleanliness in Shops and Storerooms, and the personal hygiene of all those engaged in the handling of Food.

The Premises inspected included:-

20 Non-registered (dry and green) Grocers, Confectionery and general shops. Four informal notices served. Three complied with.

4 Registered fried fish Shops - informal action taken against 2 - receiving attention.

4 Registered Shops manufacturing Sausages and other cooked meats. Informal action in 1 case receiving attention.

11 Registered shops retailing prepacked Ice-cream, stored and sold from approved Refrigerators.

8 Licensed Hotels.

FACTORY ACT, 1937

Two Bakehouses

Extension of new sewer required to enable premises at Dan's Castle to be provided with proper water-closet accommodation and informal notice served in connection with sanitary defects at Bakehouse in High Street.

MILK SUPPLY

Four producers of Accredited and ordinary milk, three of whom also retail in the Area, the other being Wholesale Producers; in addition, Tuberculin tested and Pasteurised Milk is also retailed in the Urban area by two licensed producers.

The inspection of all producer premises is carried out by Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture. No complaints were received as to the quality of the Milk.

FOOD CONDEMNED

Nine tins of decomposing Cooked Ham and Veal, total weight 5 stones 6 lbs. were condemned and destroyed as unfit for consumption due to blown and damaged tins.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were reported.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.As.	7	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	5	1	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' Premises)	Nil	-	-	-
TOTAL	12	2	-	-

2. CASES in which defects were found NIL

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action taken.

SLAUGHTERING IN DISTRICT

NIL

RATS AND INSECT DESTRUCTION ORDER

The following treatments were carried out during the year:

Business Premises 8

Periodical disinfestations of the Council's tips, manholes and sewers were also carried out.

HOUSING

New Houses Erected 1952 - 16
New houses occupied 1952 - 16

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in district:

<u>W.Cs.</u>	<u>Ash Closets</u>	<u>Ashpit Privies</u>
327	574	Nil

Ash Closets converted into W.Cs - 20
Ashpit Privies converted into W.Cs - Nil.

I am,
Your most obedient Servant,

A. CHARLTON

M.B., B.S., M.R. San. I.
Medical Officer of Health

6th May, 1954